

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SAI-01 AGR-05 TAR-01

IO-10 /102 W

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R 211709Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0398

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EC REFERENDUM - THE ANTI-MARKET STRATEGY
FOR AN "ORDERLY" WITHDRAWAL

REF: LONDON 4010

1. IN AN EFFORT TO REFUTE CLAIMS THAT A "NO" VOTE

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IN THE REFERENDUM WOULD LEAD TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

CHAOS, A GROUP OF ANTI-MARKET MINISTERS ISSUED A STATEMENT ON APRIL 20 WHICH OUTLINES A STRATEGY FOR BRITAIN'S "ORDERLY" WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMUNITY BY JANUARY 1 OF NEXT YEAR. THE FULL TEXT IS BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.

2. THE STATEMENT POINTS OUT THAT THE REFERENDUM ITSELF WILL NOT AFFECT BRITAIN'S LEGAL STATUS AS AN EC MEMBER. IN ORDER TO WITHDRAW, PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE TO REPEAL THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT AND REVOKE THE TREATY OF ACCESSION. "IT WILL THEREFORE BE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN IT WOULD BE BEST FOR BRITAIN TO BECOME INDEPENDENT."

3. THE "APPOINTED DAY," THE STATEMENT SAYS, SHOULD BE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 1976. IN THE INTERIM, BRITAIN "WOULD ATTEND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH RELEVANT ON-GOING BUSINESS BUT WOULD, BY GENERAL AGREEMENT, NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE COMMUNITY POLICIES." BRITAIN'S BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PAID UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.

4. DURING THE INTERIM, THE UK WOULD ENGAGE IN SIMULTANEOUS DISCUSSIONS TO PREPARE FOR WITHDRAWAL AND TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD WITH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO WORK OUT TRADING ARRANGEMENTS AS GOOD AS, OR BETTER THAN, WHAT THEY HAVE NOW. BRITAIN WOULD SEEK TO RESUME ITS MEMBERSHIP IN EFTA. IT WOULD PLAY A "FULL PART" IN THE MTN.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT WAS ISSUED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES, THIS STATEMENT IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT WE'VE SEEN AT A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR WITHDRAWAL. SOME OF ITS IDEAS WOULD NO DOUBT BE TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT IF THE REFERENDUM RESULTS IN A VOTE AGAINST CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP. WE BELIEVE THE STATEMENT IS UNREALISTIC IN EXPECTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON WITHDRAWAL AND ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR (SEE REFTTEL). WE ARE ALSO NOT SURE THAT THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD LET BRITAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EC INSTITUTIONS, EVEN ON A PARTIAL BASIS, DURING A SIX-MONTH INTERIM FOLLOWING

NOTE: LONDON 6003 NOT PROCESSED BY ANA. PLS SVC FOR CONFIRMATION OF END OF TEXT. APPEARS INCOMPLETE. 4/21/75. JRM.

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